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Atty. Docket No.: 22620/1222 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Murchie, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/839,649  
Filed: April 19, 2001  
Entitled: "Assay for Identification of a Test Compound"

Examiner: S. Chunduru  
Group Art Unit: 1637  
Conf. No.: 2120

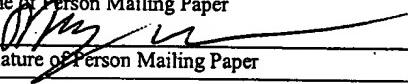
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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This is filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 19, 2002 in the above-noted U.S. Patent Application. Kindly enter the following proposed Amendments and Remarks.

In the Claims:

Please replace claim 1 with the following amended claim 1.

1. (Amended) A method for determining whether a test compound binds to a target RNA, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting said test compound with said target RNA and an RNA-modifying enzyme that covalently alters an existing base in said target RNA; and

(b) detecting the modification of said target RNA by said enzyme and comparing the amount of modification detected to that of a standard, wherein said comparing determines whether said test compound binds to said target RNA.